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"But income from tolls was 30 lakhs. The amount from tolls in 1925–26 was 30·26 lakhs and expenditure 96 lakhs. In 1926–27 the amount spent on road development was 101·56 lakhs and the toll income was 34·51 lakhs. So hon. Members will realize that unless a proper substitute could be found to replace this large amount of revenue, it will be impossible to get rid of tolls altogether however inconvenient the travelling public may feel about the delay. I know not only the users of motor cars but also the bandy drivers find it very inconvenient to pass through toll-gates. But as long as a great amount of money is spent for communications, we have got to rely on a source of income by which we can maintain the roads. Under the circumstances I am sure hon. Members will realize the difficulty in carrying out the resolution even if it is passed by the Council. I would ask hon. Members to consider the practical point of view before they pass the resolution. 11-45 a.m.

"The second point that I want to make out is that my friend is in a great hurry to carry out this resolution. The Road Development Committee has been appointed by Government of India and they are considering the alternative sources of revenue which will make the roads what they ought to be. When their proposals are before us we may well be able to see whether we can get rid of these toll-gates. The President of the District Board of Madura had some proposals about this but even he has not gone to the extent of submitting his proposals to the Government. Under the circumstances I am sure my hon. Friends will see the administrative difficulties that stand in the way of carrying out this resolution."

*Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"In view of the explanation (laughter), in view of the remarks made by the Chief Minister I wish to withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

SALE OF 'POORUM'

*Dr. (Mrs.) S. Muthulakshmi Reddi rose to move her resolution.

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may move her resolution in the amended form she suggested, viz., in line 3 *for* the word 'vendors' *substitute* the word 'chemist.'"

*Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"I withdraw the amendment."

*The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Then the hon. Member may move in the original form."

*Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name:

> '*This Council recommends to the Government that the sale of the bazaar drug known as "Poorum" in Tamil or "Rasakarpur" in Hindi by other than licensed vendors be prohibited forthwith.*'

"I move this resolution in response to the repeated appeals made by responsible medical officers of the Telugu districts and especially parts of the East Godavari. Poorum is an impure form of calomel and it is manufactured by people who have no knowledge of chemistry or pharmocology. Without any test of the impurities, the drug is left with the ordinary provision

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vendors, who sell it without any licence or restriction to any customer in any quantity. The lay people use it as an ordinary household remedy without any idea of the poisonous nature. The cases of poisoning are no doubt rare in the Tamil districts. But poisoning with this drug is very common in the Telugu districts with the result that pregnant women very often become the victims. When labour is delayed on any account the relations of the patient buy the drug and administer it to her in big doses to precipitate delivery. The result is that the labour is not hastened and the patient becomes acutely poisoned. The labour is unduly delayed and the child dies. The woman dies either out of shock or from the use of instruments in her moribund condition. Sepsis in some cases supervenes from delayed labour and interference. It is not only the pregnant women who fall a prey to this drug but very often men, women and children also get a doze of the drug. In the majority of cases death is the result but when the patient survives very many complications set in, such as severe enteritis, ulceration of the gullet and stomach, etc.

"Photos of children severely poisoned by the drug have been sent to me by the medical officer in charge of the Ramachandrapur hospital in East Godavari district. In this photo, the lips, the tongue and the gums have all become one ulcer and the child suffers most intensely, and after slough separates, in the few cases where the child survives, holes are formed in the cheek, exposing the teeth, the gums and the inside of the mouth. Rather becoming subject to these complications and becoming life long invalids, the Medical Officer writes to say that it is far better for the patients to die immediately. The poisoning is due to the impurity, perchloride of mercury, contained in the drug 'Poorum'. In spite of the advice and repeated warnings of the medical people, the ignorant and the superstitious still resort to it. Missionaries have been doing propaganda in those parts which have proved of no avail to convince the people of the dangerous nature of the drug. So far, the rural population have not heeded any medical advice. The out-patients of the hospitals in those parts are full of such cases. The doctor suggests that the only remedy lies in legislation and the drug may be included in the list of poisons as it has an impurity, a virulent poison, i.e., perchloride of mercury, and hence it should be sold by licensed vendors with the recommendation of medical practitioners or of the recognized Ayurvedic doctors. With these remarks, I humbly submit that the Government may take immediate steps to bring about legislation and thus prevent the havoc caused by this drug to the ignorant rural population of the districts concerned."

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I beg to second the resolution moved by our respected sister."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, this drug which is called 'Poorum' or 'Rasakarpur' does not find a place in the list of poisons enumerated in rule 2 of the rules relating to poisons. When these rules were originally framed, opinions were called for and among the substances suggested this did not find a place. But matters did not stop there, because this particular drug was specifically asked to be reported upon. The Surgeon-General reported :

'The Chemical Examiner states that "Poorum" or "Rasakarpur" is calomel. Some specimens of "Poorum" or calomel contain mercuric chloride as impurity, but this can hardly be considered a reason for including "Poorum" in the schedule of poisons. The need is for a "Sale of Drugs Act" similar to the "Sale of Food and Drugs Act" in England. In Madras, drugs have been omitted from the "Prevention of the Adulteration of Food Act."'

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"Another opinion that we obtained was this :

'The drug "Poorum" or "Rasakarpur" is Hydrargyri sub-chloridum or sub-chloride of mercury. It is commonly sold in all the Indian drug shops. Native physicians are using it in the preparation of purgative pills, oils and specifics which are generally indicated in the treatment of syphilis and other kindred diseases. It is said that it is also sometimes used for removing impurities in gold.

'It is the opinion of some of the practising native doctors that this substance is not so poisonous as other drugs such as extract of nux-vomica, cotton seeds or belladonna. Any restrictions placed on its sale may affect the Ayurvedic system of medicine.'

"In these circumstances it was considered that there was no case for making Rasakarpur come under the Poisons Act. Opinions are divided and as a matter of fact stronger poisons are found on sale in the bazaars. This is one of the specifics which are used in the Ayurvedic system of medicine and it seems to me it will be inexpedient to bring any restriction into operation. Of course that it can be misused is a fact. But similarly croton and many others may be misused and are misused sometimes. That is no reason for accepting this resolution and Government feel that they cannot accept it."

* Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, the fact that Ayurvedic doctors make use of the drug in their daily practice is no excuse for the drug being sold without any licence to the ignorant people. On the recommendation of the Ayurvedic physicians, the drugs may be issued by the vendor. As there have been many acute cases of poisoning reported, I most respectfully press upon the attention of the Government that an immediate enquiry be instituted and statistics of cases of poisoning by the drug may be collected and if necessary the sale of the drug may be brought under some restriction so that the lay public may not have an easy access to such an injurious drug."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, Government have no objection to cause another enquiry to be started on the basis of the remarks made by the Deputy President. But in the present form they cannot accept the resolution."

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"On the assurance given by the hon. the Law Member, I withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu was deemed to have been withdrawn as the hon. Member was not in his seat :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the investigation of a supply channel to Dondapadu tank in Vinukonda taluk of Guntur district from Kondleru scheme be taken up immediately and necessary expenditure for taking levels, etc., be sanctioned."

THE KALLAR RECLAMATION WORK.

* Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution, namely :— 12 noon.

'That this Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to entrust the Kallar reclamation work at Tanjore to the Revenue Department and not to the Police Department as is done at present.'

"Sir, we, Kallars, are not unaware of the laudable intentions of the Government in trying to ameliorate our condition. The method by which these good intentions are sought to be translated into action is positively humiliating, undesirable and unjust. Why on earth the name of 'Kallar' came to